

MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY



Seven years after the sniper terrorized D.C. his execution is scheduled for today.

IN NEWS, 4

Men's soccer hosts Big West Conference Tournament Wednesday night.

IN SPORTS, 12

Video of Tibetan monks closing ceremony online now.

mustangdaily.net



Volume LXXIV, Number 40

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www.mustangdaily.net

Biomedical engineering students take advising role

Alexandra Sousa

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Due to the budget cuts that have distressed every department at Cal Poly, the biomedical engineering department has faced personnel cutbacks that threaten the department's viability, affecting its day-to-day operations.

However, the student Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) plans to be the driving force in picking up the slack and doing much of the department's day-to-day chores, such as providing student advisement for classes and widening internship and job opportunities for students. The student group will also help coordinate the department's Week of Welcome activities for incoming students.

In the past, many of these duties fell to the department's clerical staff and faculty.

"This year, I am hoping for BMES to be 100 percent differ-

ent from previous years," said new BMES president Bobby Nijjar, a senior in the department.

There is a sense that people need more help getting a job and BMES does that.

—Bobby Nijjar

Biomedical Engineering Society president

With its new expanded duties, Nijjar is hoping that this year will produce a student club that "will

run in order to help students with the curriculum, in order for them to be more successful overall in biomedical engineering."

The department's faculty seems to agree.

"This year BMES is very open and transparent," professor David Clague said. "All the faculty feel that they have the freedom to offer what they feel is important. I really like transparency."

In comparison to previous years, though it cannot be definitively linked to the new way things are run, "more faculty are involved and there has been a lot more participation. There is a sense that people need more help getting a job and BMES does that," Clague said.

Nijjar and the other student officers set up this year's program to meet three specific criteria: offer a diverse industry relation, promote student academia and improve social interactions within the biomedical engineering department. "I have fresh ideas and an approach that is not as conventional as previous years," Nijjar said.

Sixty percent of the job of BMES is to help the department by lessening their load by advising students about classes, the biomedical engineering department and any questions about student life here at Cal Poly," Nijjar said.

"The other 40 percent of the time is spent on helping the student, whether it be helping students get internships, make connections within the industry and provide a helpful tutoring program."

Clague said that the club is good for students as well.

"The club allows students to build networks with the industry and it is a shared goal with the biomedical engineering department to assist our student by pairing them with an upperclassman tutor," he said.

Students are looking forward to the student club's expanded role.

"I hope that BMES will give me a better understanding of biomedical engineering, give me the opportunity to connect with other students and faculty of that major and to have a better understanding of how to get a career in this field," biomedical engineering

Rossman's math adds up

Cal Poly statistics professor wins national award

Katelyn Smith

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

In the math world, Allan Rossman is the teaching equivalent of Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps or Michelle Kwan — a gold medalist.

He will receive the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award in January. Rossman is one of three mathematicians in the country to receive the award, which is presented by the top mathematical organization in the country, the Mathematical Association of America.

"Allan is competing against statisticians and a plethora of mathematicians and it is incredibly rare that a statistician would get an award from the American Mathematical Association," statistics department chair Robert Smidt said. "It is exceedingly unique and a high honor."

proach is a different teaching style that is not always easy for students to grasp at first, Chance said.

"It is hard to be innovative and to try things in the classroom because students sometimes get uncomfortable when things are new, and Rossman does challenge them to think and to not just repeat back what he says, and so sometimes students don't like that," she said.

Many of his students don't necessarily see it that way. Scott Cairney, a mathematics senior, like some others in his class, said that he enjoys being challenged in class to think.

"I like the fact that he doesn't spend too much time just sitting there busting out formulas, he really uses them, and then he tries to pick stuff that is fairly interesting, as articles are concerned," he said.

...It is incredibly rare that a statistician would get an award from the American Mathematical Association. It is exceedingly unique and a high honor.

—Robert Smidt

Statistics department chair

Rossman's colleague, professor Beth Chance, nominated him. The judging is based on several guidelines: being successful and effective in their teaching, influencing beyond their own institutions and generating excitement and curiosity about mathematics in their students.

Students are used to writing down equations and memorizing them, but Rossman's students do not get anything handed to them. They must figure out formulas, definitions and how things work through a series of questions they are given through activities that use real world data.

Rossman's activity-based ap-

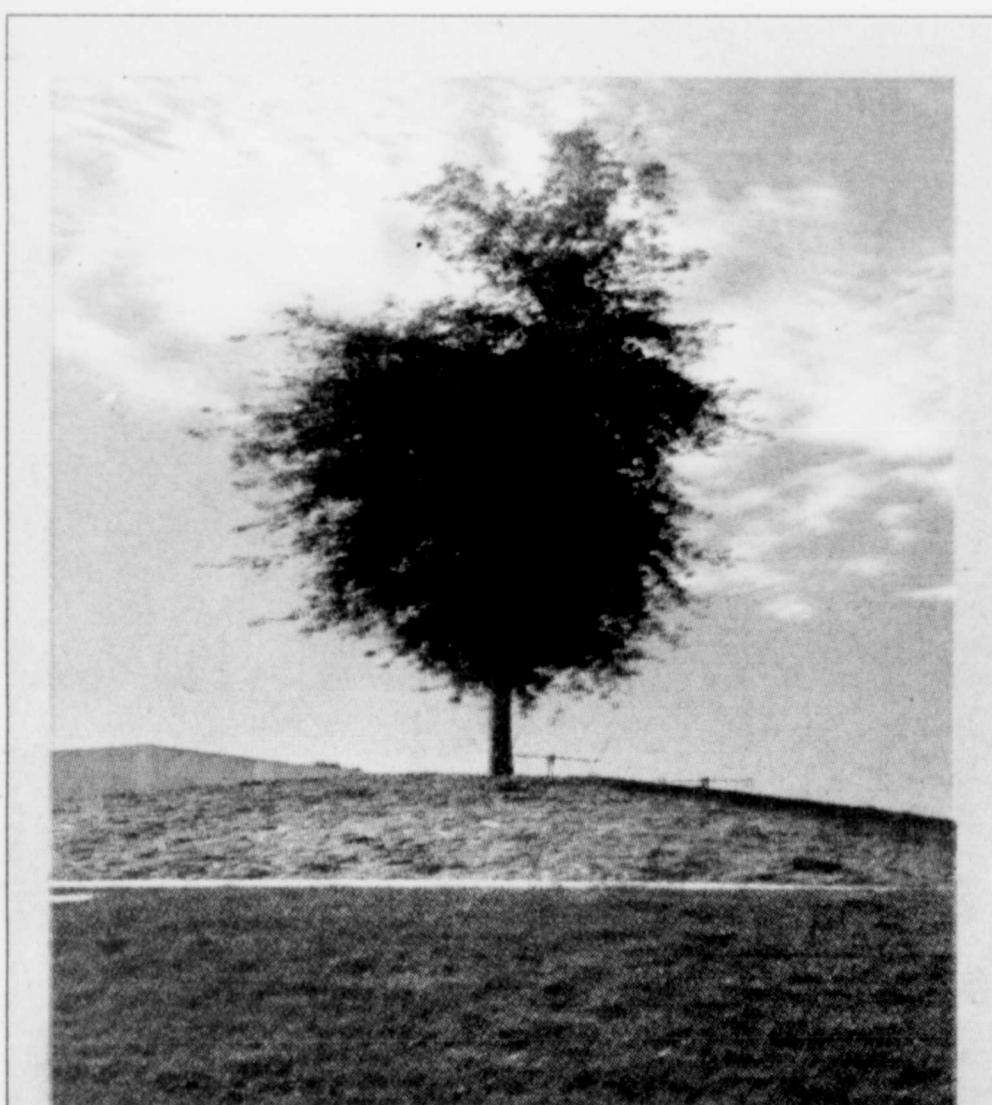
Rossman said he strives to generate excitement in his students about mathematics.

"The best feeling is when you assign a problem in class and a student really gets intrigued by it and invests a lot of time and effort to try and figure it out, and comes in to me with questions about it," Rossman said.

Students who may not be mathematically inclined have no need to fear with Rossman's teaching, economics sophomore Gregory Kramer said.

"He always walks around the classroom, especially when we

see Rossman, page 2



picture of the day

by Daniel Trinsai

"King of the hill"

see BMES, page 2

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mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Rossman

continued from page 1

are doing our assignments on our own, and he is always offering help to anyone who looks like they may be struggling," he said.

In Rossman's classes, students are not just crunching numbers but understanding the concepts through application, Chance said.

"Rossman is really committed in the classroom, and pulls off his activity-based approach by letting the students figure it out for themselves," she said.

Outside of the classrooms of Cal Poly, Rossman has been a major influence among the statisti-

cal and mathematical worlds. His published materials are being used across the country, and he puts on workshops and presentations to spread his unique teaching style.

"I hope the ideas that Chance and I have are impacting other teachers of statistics around the country and getting them excited about teaching statistics and helping their students," Rossman said.

Rossman and Chance have worked together on two textbooks, "Workshop Statistics" and "Investigating Statistical Concepts, Applications, and Methods." These books are designed with a series of questions that lead students to develop their own thoughts, and creates a classroom environment that

nurtures active discussion.

As part of his award, Rossman is allowed to give a 20-minute address about his teaching philosophy. His speech titled "Asking Good Questions" is based on the notion that interesting questions will make students learn and retain information more easily.

"To be honest the biggest perk this award does for me is to give me the chance to give a talk to a big audience, where I can try to convince them that my ideas about teaching are good ideas, and maybe I will convince some of them to adopt some of my ideas," Rossman said.

BMES

continued from page 1

freshman Ryan Phife said.

BMES hopes that possibility of social interactions between students and teachers will further help the department run more smoothly.

And the BMES has been known as an important component to the biomedical engineering society because it offers to help department.

"They help us host information sessions with companies to educate students almost every quarter. They are an equal or greater part of Week Of Welcome and they actually plan everything and it's a huge help to an already short-handed staff," Clague said.

"The beauty of (biomedical engineering) is that it is so diverse with so many opportunities. Biomed is always going to be there and there will never be a shortage for their expertise," Nijjar added.

**Sixty percent
of the job of
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partment by
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—Bobby Nijjar
BMES president

Nijjar is determined to make BMES comparable and as opportunity-filled as the new department.

"My favorite part of my major is the idea that I can help people with what I do. I might be able to create something that could help change someone's life," Phife said.

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Fort Hood shooting suspect was under FBI probe in 2008

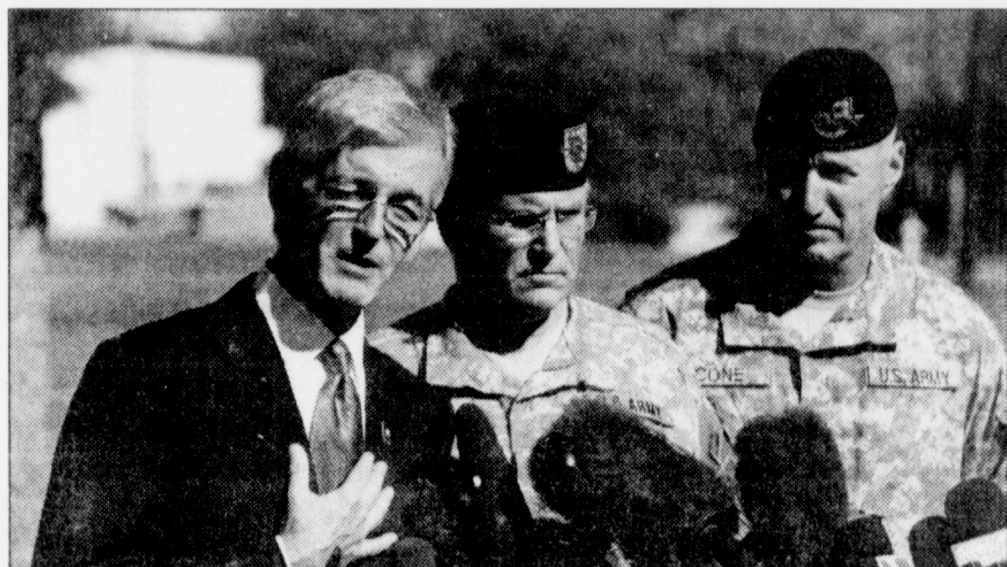
Josh Meyer and Greg Miller
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The FBI and the Army last year investigated contacts between a Yemen-based militant Islamist prayer leader and the Army psychiatrist accused of last week's deadly shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, but they dropped the case after concluding that he didn't pose a terrorist threat, a senior federal law enforcement official said Monday.

The disclosure on Monday that Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan communicated with an imam who had ties to Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers was sure to raise the question of whether U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies had information that, if properly shared and investigated, might have helped to prevent the at-

tack. Even before that disclosure, law-makers were calling for inquiries into

whether the Army, the FBI and the see FBI probe, page 4



Secretary of the U.S. Army John McHugh, left, discusses the shooting spree at Fort Hood as Army Chief of Staff George Casey, center, and Fort Hood Commander Gen. Robert Cone look on at a news conference.

Life without parole not allowed for teens, Supreme Court says

Lesley Clark
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Florida's tough prison sentences for juveniles came under scrutiny Monday at the U.S. Supreme Court, as the justices appeared divided over whether locking up teenagers for life constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

Attorneys for two Florida teenagers who are serving life in prison with no opportunity for parole told the justices such sentences are unjust to teenagers, who often outgrow their felonious ways.

Florida argued banning such sentences would undermine the state Legislature's efforts to cut down on serious violent crimes by juveniles.

The court's conservative bloc —

Chief Justice John G. Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito — seemed reluctant to embrace an outright ban on such sentences, suggesting instead judges take factors such as age into account during sentencing.

"Your client — his crime is horrendously violent," Roberts said to Bryan Stevenson, an attorney for Joe Sullivan, who was convicted of raping an elderly woman when he was 13. "At the same time, he is much younger than in the typical case. And it seems to me that requiring ... consideration of his age avoids all these line-drawing problems."

However, Bryan Gowdy, an attorney for Terrance Jamar Graham,

see Teens, page 5

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Briefs

State

SACRAMENTO (MCT) — California State University officials may have followed federal guidelines in reporting that stimulus money saved an inordinate number of campus jobs, but someone in the university system should have objected to reporting the numbers because "they don't make sense," California's stimulus watchdog official said Friday.

CSU reported late last week that federal stimulus dollars let them retain about 26,000 full-time-equivalent positions. That's more than half of CSU's work force, and it's more jobs than the state of Texas and 44 other states reported saving with stimulus money.

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (MCT) — This time of year, most people aren't thinking about sunny days at the beach. However, managers of state parks are, and they're worried.

The recent budget cuts that have closed campgrounds and left parks operating on a shoestring — at least through the end of the fiscal year July 1 — could mean a dangerously low number of lifeguards on state beaches next spring and summer.

"We will likely have a significant decrease in guards next year," said Kirk Lingenfelter, a parks superintendent overseeing miles of the Santa Cruz County coastline, including popular Seabright, Twin Lakes and Manresa beaches.

National

CHICAGO (MCT) — Federal prosecutors have stepped up efforts to keep in custody a Chicago businessman linked to an international terrorist plot, saying in their latest filing that DVDs linked to al-Qaida had been found in his home.

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, 48, was charged last month with conspiring to take revenge on a Danish newspaper for publishing unflattering cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad that outraged the Muslim world.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — A federal judge has taken the rare step of ordering self-described anti-terrorism investigator Paul David Gaubatz to remove from his Web site some 12,000 documents that his son allegedly stole from the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly also ordered Gaubatz to return documents used in his book, "Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That's Seeking to Islamize America," which was co-authored by Paul Sperry and portrays the council as a subversive organization that's allied with international terrorists.

The 15-year-old nonprofit civil rights and advocacy organization says its goals are to "enhance understanding of Islam" and "empower American Muslims."

International

CARACAS, Venezuela (MCT) — A U.S.-brokered accord that was supposed to return ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya to power has collapsed and his supporters pinned much of the blame Monday on the Obama administration.

Honduras' Congress has made no plans to vote on whether to enact the agreement following remarks by Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Shannon that seemed to remove U.S. pressure.

Shannon said last week that the deal meant that the Obama administration would accept the outcome of the Nov. 29 presidential and congressional elections, regardless of whether Zelaya was back in power.

KHARTOUM, Sudan (MCT) — The Sudanese government blasted a report compiled by the UN panel of experts established to monitor compliance with UN Security Council resolutions relating to the Darfur region.

The report made public this week accused the Khartoum and Darfur rebels of violating the arms embargo in Darfur and ban on military air flights over the region by the Sudanese air force.

It further blames Khartoum for lack of cooperation with the panel and raising objections to inquiries "offer lip service while committing sanctions violations".

attempting to contact him, would raise some red flags," said Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Committee. Hoekstra said his office has been contacted by U.S. officials involved in the case who believe that "the system just broke down."

The federal law enforcement official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the case is ongoing,

said that all the facts are not yet known because the FBI and Army are poring over numerous e-mails sent by Hasan to Awlaki and other Islamist figures.

But he said that the information known to authorities at the time did not in any way suggest that Hasan was growing violent or

see FBI probe, page 5

D.C. sniper set to be executed Wednesday

Looking back

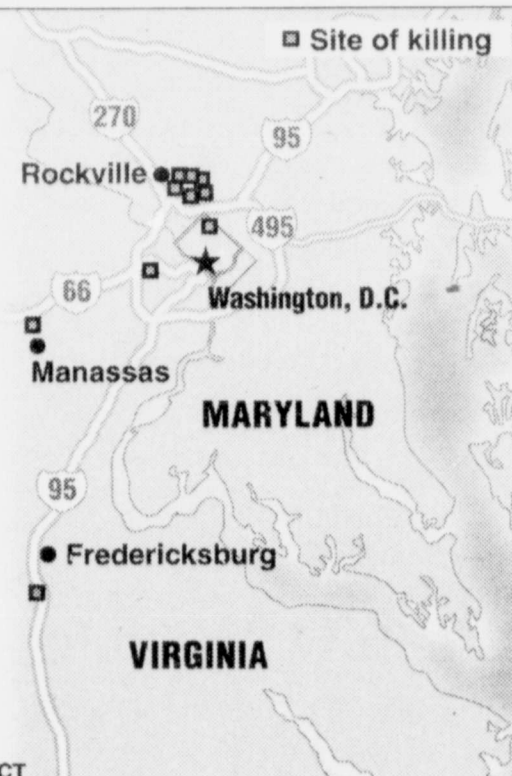
John Allen Muhammed, convicted in the 2002 Washington, D.C.-area sniper attacks, is to be executed Wednesday in Virginia.

What happened

- Muhammed, then 41, and his accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, 17, went on a three-week killing spree in October, leaving 10 dead and the area traumatized
- Three other victims were injured in a total of 16 shootings
- The two were suspected in other shootings, including one in Washington state, one in Alabama
- Malvo is serving a life sentence without parole

Source: Chicago Tribune, AP

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MCCLATCHY-NEWSPAPERS

Above is a map of the Washington, D.C. area that locates sites of 2002 sniper killings that spanned three weeks. John Allen Muhammed, the man convicted in the murders, is to be executed in Virginia Wednesday.

David G. Savage

MCCLATCHY-NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Seven years ago this month, the captured Beltway snipers — John Allen Muhammed, then 41, and his accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, 17 — were in federal custody, accused of 16 shootings and 10 murders. They had set out to create a reign of terror in the Washington area to match the 9-11 attacks of the year before.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft had a choice: He could send them to be tried in Maryland, where most of the murders took place but where the death penalty was on hold because of the specter of racial unfairness. Or he could send them across the Potomac River to Virginia, the site of three of the killings, where death sentences are carried out swiftly.

Ashcroft chose Virginia.

On Tuesday, Muhammed is scheduled to die by lethal injection in a Virginia prison, his initial appeals having been dismissed by state and federal judges.

"History has borne out the attorney general made the right call," said Mark Corallo, who was Ashcroft's spokesman. "These crimes were so brutally coldblooded and calculated."

Muhammed's new lawyers lodged a last set of emergency appeals with the Supreme Court last week. Their

main claim is that the case has moved too quickly. They said judges in Virginia cut short the time for filing appeals and refused to hold a single hearing after the trial.

Jonathan Sheldon, Muhammed's current lawyer, describes his client as mentally ill.

"He is delusional, paranoid and incompetent. He was angry at the government after he came back from the Gulf War. And he has delusions of racist conspiracies," Sheldon said.

He faults Muhammed's trial lawyers for having described him as a "very bright man" to the jury, and for not recounting his mental problems.

Sheldon said Muhammed called him a few days ago to say he should find Muhammed's dentist to confirm that he was not in Washington at the time of the crimes.

"He's in Nuremberg," Muhammed said, according to his lawyer's account. "In Germany?" the lawyer asked.

"It's a week before his execution, and he thinks we should be looking for a dentist in Germany," Sheldon said.

Meanwhile, prosecutors and families of the victims have said they are comforted that Muhammed is facing the death penalty and that an execution is on schedule.

see Execution, page 5

FBI probe

continued from page 3

U.S. intelligence community missed warning signs about Hasan's increasing radicalization in the months before last Thursday's killing spree.

"I think the very fact that you've got a major in the U.S. Army contacting this guy (a radical imam), or

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Teens

continued from page 3

who was convicted of armed robberies when he was 16 and 17, argued a ban on sentences of life without a chance for parole would be more effective than a case-by-case review, because "we can't tell which adolescents are going to change and which aren't."

"It needs to happen later," the Jacksonville, Fla., attorney told the justices, speaking of decisions about parole. "Once he has matured, once he's reached past adulthood."

Gowdy and Stevenson noted in a 2005 ruling, the high court prevented those younger than 18 from being sentenced to death for their crimes because young offenders are more easily swayed and lack the judgment of adults. Life without parole, Stevenson argued, is comparable to a death sentence.

Execution

continued from page 4

Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler agrees, though he objected to Ashcroft's 2002 decision to move the case.

"It has worked out for the better. If you are going to have a death penalty, John Muhammad — just like Tim McVeigh — is the poster boy for the death penalty," said Gansler, referring to the Oklahoma City bomber who was executed in 2001. At the time of the Washington shootings, Gansler was chief prosecutor in Montgomery County, Md., where six of the murders occurred.

Besides the 10 killings in the Washington area, Muhammad and Malvo were believed to have killed at least seven others in their cross-country shooting spree.

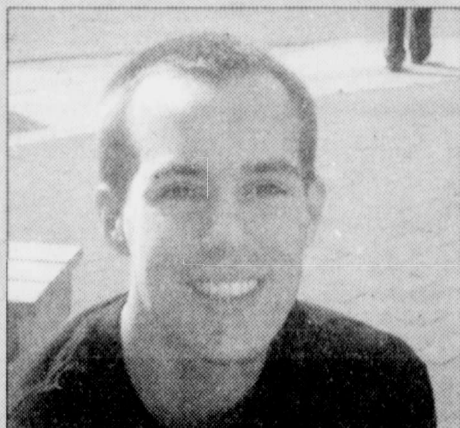
It began on Sept. 5, 2002, when a restaurant owner in Clinton, Md., was shot six times as he left his establishment. He survived, but a young thief, apparently Malvo, stole \$3,500 in cash from him. Ten days later, the owner of a nearby liquor store was shot and robbed.

It was not until Oct. 3 that the shootings gripped the Washington area. At 8:15 a.m., a taxi driver was fatally shot while fueling his car. Fifteen minutes later, a woman was fatally shot in the head while sitting on a bench outside a restaurant. Less than two hours later, another woman was fatally shot as she stood next to her car. And that evening, a man was shot on a street in northwest Washington.

The shootings continued throughout the month. The FBI eventually used fingerprints on ransom notes to trace Muhammad and Malvo back to Washington state, where their shooting spree had begun.

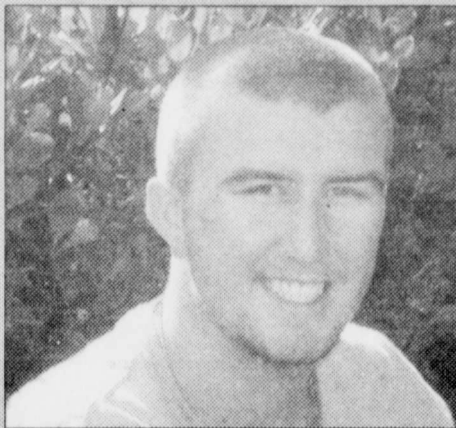
WORD ON THE STREET

"Having now had furloughs, what do you think of them? Do you have more work?"



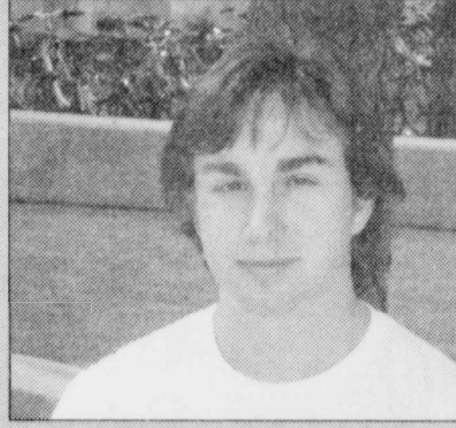
"I like them, it's a day off from class. Sometimes I have readings to keep up on."

-Gordon Dunn, business freshman



"I think it's cool you get to sleep in like a free day. I don't think there's more work."

-Joey Bradshaw, electrical engineering freshman



"Most of mine took them when we didn't have class so nothing has really changed for me."

-Patrick Haley, civil engineering junior



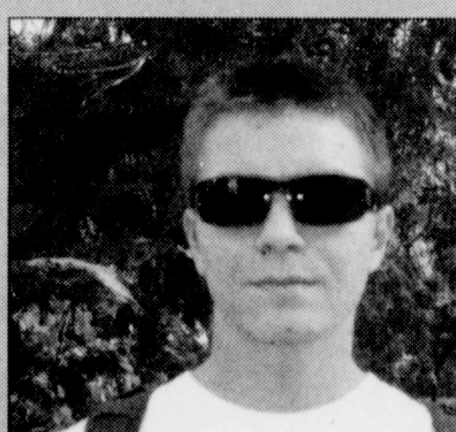
"I wouldn't say I've had more work. Most of the teachers will end up taking days off anyway. This is just their excuse."

-Caroline Shakeshaft, wine and viticulture senior



"My teachers still do total schedule. So they tell us to go to the library and do everything we would normally do in class; still responsibilities but no guidance. But I still like the freedom."

-Mandy Holm, business senior



"I like them because I have a lot more time to do stuff especially because I have 8 a.m. classes. I don't really have any more homework or I don't realize it."

-Braden Macey, forestry junior

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNIFER TITCOMB

FBI probe

continued from page 4

that he was involved in "any terrorist planning or plotting."

"I don't know if it will greatly affect our assessment of the case, what motivated him. It remains to be seen whether this means anything or not," said the federal official, adding that authorities still believe Hasan acted alone when firing a minutes-long spray of bullets that killed 13 people and injured another 29.

The official said that Hasan did not appear to have known Awlaki in person, except perhaps in passing, even though the militant prayer leader was the imam at a Virginia mosque that Hasan attended in 2001.

The mosque drew the attention of the FBI at the time, and later the Sept. 11 commission, because of Awlaki's connection to at least two of the Sept. 11 hijackers, who may have followed him from a mosque in San Diego to the Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, Va., in early 2001.

Awlaki, a U.S. citizen, left the United States in 2002 and is be-

lieved to be in Yemen and actively supporting the Islamist jihad, or holy war against the West, through his Web site.

Several U.S. officials said U.S. intelligence agencies first intercepted communications between Hasan and Awlaki starting in late 2008 as a result of another investigation, and that the information was given to one U.S.-based multi-agency Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and then to another one based at the Washington Field Office because of Hasan's assignment at the Walter Reed medical center.

The Washington task force, which included FBI agents and Army criminal investigative personnel, launched a probe and determined that Hasan was contacting the radical cleric — who has ties to other al-Qaida-affiliated individuals — "within the context of the doctor's position and what he was doing at the time, conducting research ... on the issues of Muslims in the military and the effects of war in Muslim countries."

The federal official said Hasan had "reached out to Awlaki several times before he got a response," and that there was little in the correspondence to raise serious red flags.

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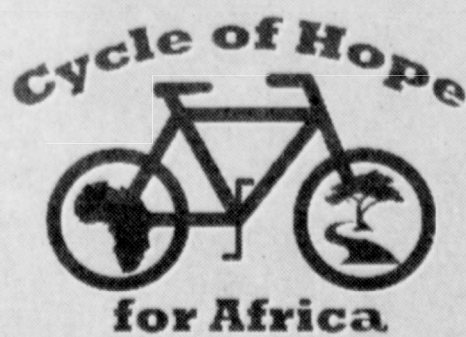
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Theater professor's original play to debut on Spanos stage



COURTESY PHOTO

Theater junior Max Sopkin plays the role of Zero, a character who runs for president of the fake country of Grode. "Zero to Infinity" opens in Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre tomorrow at 8 p.m.

Nikol Schiller
MUSTANG DAILY

A rather fat man in a black suit is sitting in his living room blowing up an oversized, vinyl sex doll. His wife, a woman with basketball-sized breasts and a head full of vo-

luminous, pink hair, looks at him and blabbers, "Zero, it's time to get off your kadoodles. Life is kicking along and you have nothing to show for it."

So begins the opening scene of theater professor Al Schnupp's "Zero to Infinity," which will de-

but on Nov. 12 in the Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre. Schnupp's made-up language and outrageous, clown-like characters show the hoops politicians have to jump through in today's political circus.

Schnupp began writing this absurdist play about seven years ago

when he was "thoroughly appalled and disgusted by politics at that time." Though the play never mentions names, he said that the circus of events could be considered a spoof on the Bush-Cheney administration.

"[The administration was] just appalling; immoral in my opinion. There were no weapons of mass destruction. Cheney did make a ton of money off of his Halliburton company," Schnupp said. "I love absurd plays because I think they're really a reflection of reality. So during the Iraq surge when Condoleezza Rice was asked, 'Oh, is this troop increase an augmentation?' and she said, 'No.' Then they said, 'Well what is it?' Well she said, 'It's an allocation.' To me, that's absurd."

Though the play does have an underlying satirical message, the overall atmosphere is more light-hearted, silly and colorful.

The 14 short, fast-paced scenes that make up the production show the political campaign of husband and wife, Zero and Maxie's outrageous campaign to help Zero become president of a country called Grode.

Psychology and theater senior Ashleigh Droz, who plays Maxie, was drawn to the character because of her over-the-top, emotional personality.

"I really liked her part and her role with the other characters," Droz said. "She's smart. She's ambitious. She really wants power and money and luxury."

Maxie convinces Zero to illegally obtain funds to finance his campaign, which is followed closely by Inspector Oodles, who tries to figure out how Zero came up with the money.

Throughout the play, Inspector Oodles uses several different disguises to investigate Zero's campaign, including a Swiss yodeler, a French sculptor and an Italian chauffeur. Theater sophomore Ryan Austin, who plays Inspector Oodles, uses eight different accents throughout the play to match each one of Inspector Oodles's disguises.

"He is a very motivated investigator. He will pretty much try anything to get what he needs, although he may not be the best at it," Austin said.

The political game that Zero plays to win over the people of Grode resonates closely to the way presidential candidates in the United States campaign.

"There are so many landmines that politicians have to walk through to even be considered seriously, and I find that absurd and sad," Schnupp said.

One of the events Zero must walk through is an interview with the media. Two life-sized puppets with skeleton faces, named Paul and Appalling, interview Zero about his quest to become president. The irony in the interview is that Paul and Appalling never seem to ask Zero any questions, but rather ask and

see Play, page 8

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Holiday movie lineup lacks major blockbuster releases

Russ Britt
MARKETWATCH



MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE
Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee star as a father and son traveling through a rugged America in "The Road," out Wednesday, Nov. 25.

LOS ANGELES — No wizards named Harry, no lords chasing rings, no hunters of national treasures, no nights at a museum. Not even Bond is showing up.

This year's holiday movie schedule is relatively sequel-free, save for a teen-vampire flick and few high-pitched chipmunks. And remakes are just as scarce, with only Scrooge and Sherlock Holmes on the agenda.

Yes, for the 2009 holiday season, Hollywood will be left to its own devices to get by — and it could end up being one of the industry's biggest crashshoots ever.

"There really aren't those guaranteed blockbusters," said Brandon Gray, president of BoxOfficeMojo.com. "The season is more interesting because you don't have those big franchise movies."

The closest thing to a "guaranteed" blockbuster sequel this year is "The Twilight Saga: New Moon," and that guarantee is somewhat muted.

The original "Twilight" teenage vampire film debuted last November and did well, but not spectacularly well enough to prop up an entire season of movie going. The film, whose main audience is teenage girls, took in \$383.7 million worldwide.

That puts it at 121st on the all-time list — well behind all six "Harry Potter" movies and countless other holiday entries. Independent studio Summit Entertainment made the film for a reportedly relatively paltry sum of \$37 million, bringing a ten-fold return in receipts.

But Gray says it may be tough for "New Moon" to beat "Twilight's" numbers because the film series, based on Stephenie Meyer's popular books, was already well-known prior to the first film.

"The amount of hype was pretty high for the first movie," Gray said.

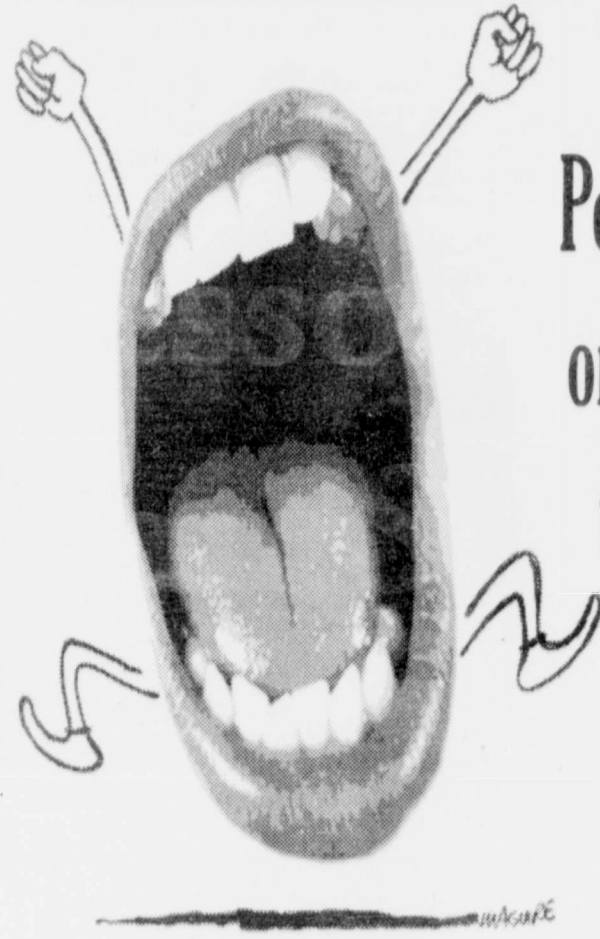
The holiday movie season is

sort of a miniature version of the industry's lucrative summer season, says Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office analysis for Hollywood.com. Dergarabedian says the amount of business that Hollywood gets from the holiday season is proportionally equivalent of summer — both rely largely on students with a lot of free time on their hands.

There's roughly \$4 billion in box-office receipts to be gleaned from 16 weeks of summer films, or about 40 percent of the industry's full-year take. The holiday season is

see Movies, page 8

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-20	Saints @ Rams	20-
-30	Jaguars @ Jets	30-
-40	Hawks @ Panthers	40-
-50	Bengals @ Steelers	50-
-60	Chiefs @ Raiders	60-
-70	Eagles @ Chargers	70-
-80	Seahawks @ Cardinals	80-
-90	Patriots @ Colts	90-

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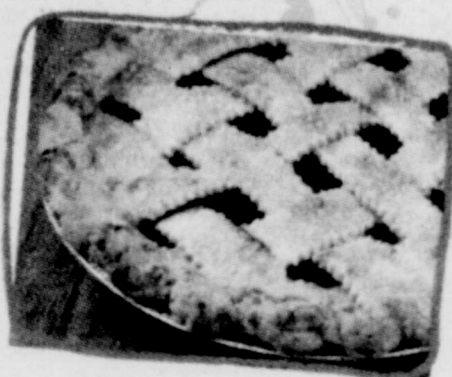
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Play

continued from page 6

answer the questions themselves, spotlighting their image instead of Zero's.

Other examples of the tightrope Zero must walk to be considered for president include his makeover at Shimmer Clinic and his choice of a weak-minded running mate who can only speak in questions.

Another absurd characteristic of the play is the unique language in which it's written. With words like "struncation," "kadoodles" and "boinker," the play's silly dialogue harmonizes with the colorful, cir-

cus theme of the play. Though the language is made up, Austin said that it is easy to understand in context.

Schnupp is looking forward to putting on the production, hoping that the students will have a good time but also realize the political satire sprinkled throughout the play.

"I hope they laugh a lot and see it as a comedy," he said. "I hope they see things I'm poking fun at and say, 'Touché,' or 'You're right' or 'Yeah, that's a Saturday Night Live take on this aspect of politics.'"

"Zero to Infinity" will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday and will run until Saturday. Tickets are \$15.



COURTESY PHOTO

Posters advertising the play feature colorful wooden figurines, which represent the main characters Zero, Maxie and Inspector Oodles.

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The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

Send your commentaries* of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

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Movies

continued from page 7

a little less than half that long and comprises about 18 percent of the overall receipts, or close to \$2 billion.

"Week-for-week, dollar-for-dollar, it's as important as the summer season," Dergarabedian said.

Whether this holiday season can live up to that notion remains to be seen.

One of the big gambles this year is on "Avatar," the first feature film directed by James Cameron since 1997's "Titanic." Still the all-time box-office champ, "Titanic" made \$600 million in the U.S. and \$1.8 billion worldwide.

"Avatar" cost a reported \$230 million and took four years to make. It's the story of a band of humans that visits a distant planet and finds

itself at odds with the natives over the discovery of rare gems on the planet. The protagonist is a paraplegic war veteran transformed into one of the natives via a top-secret process — and a little Hollywood magic. He's assigned to infiltrate the enemy, but he ends up defending them.

Distributor Twentieth-Century Fox no doubt is looking for that magic to flow the way it did for "Titanic," its co-venture with Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures unit. (Twentieth-Century Fox, like MarketWatch, publisher of this report, is a unit of News Corp.)

But the studio remains confident its gamble will pay off. As a company spokesman put it: "We know it'll be big — the question is how big."

One big draw is expected to be that Cameron tries to break new ground with the film. He uses a

new camera system that Fox officials insist will set a new standard for filmmaking.

Plus, the planet's natives are created via a sort of "performance-capture" animation, sort of like what was done with "The Polar Express" and "Beowulf," as well as the Golum character in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. This time, however, the film uses what Fox calls "emotion capture," which aims for a seamless transition between the live-action characters and those that are the product of animation.

"Avatar" is scheduled for release Dec. 18.

An even bigger gamble is Sony Corp.'s "2012," a disaster film that imagines the end of the world in three years, a prophecy emanating from the Mayan calendar. The movie, starring John Cusack, cost a reported \$260 million to make and is due out this week.

The film's release was moved back from July in an effort to take increase box-office potential. Roland Emmerich, director of "Independence Day" and "The Day After Tomorrow," also was at the helm of "2012."

While there may be few sequels on tap, the season is chock full of fully animated features, the first of which debuted last Friday. "A Christmas Carol," a refashioning of the classic Dickens tale as done by Walt Disney Co., is one of four widely released films to mark the unofficial start of the holiday season. Starring Jim Carrey in the Scrooge role, "A Christmas Carol" also uses performance-capture animation to illustrate the point.

"New Moon" debuts Nov. 20, the Friday before Thanksgiving, along with another animated feature, Sony's "Planet 51" and "The Blind Side," a sports drama from Warner.

That following Wednesday, three films hit theaters: "Ninja Assassin,"

an action film from Warner, "Old Dogs," a family comedy from Disney and "The Road," a thriller from the Weinstein Co.

Also on that Wednesday will be a limited release of Disney's second animation entry for the season, "The Princess and the Frog." It's rare that Disney, the art form's pioneer, puts out two major animated releases in the same season. But Disney says "Princess" is different from "A Christmas Carol" in that it's all hand-drawn sketches, an art form becoming virtually obsolete in an era now dominated by computer-generated images.

Disney first announced plans for "Princess" at its 2007 annual meeting in New Orleans, the city where the film's story takes place. It was there that John Lasseter, the one-time Pixar chief who now oversees all Disney animation, announced the studio would revisit traditional hand-drawn animation. Along with "Avatar," "Princess" is one of the most anticipated films of the year.

Also in December, Sony will release the thriller "Armored" on Dec. 4, while Lionsgate's drama "Brothers" debuts. "Everybody's Fine," a comedy from Disney's Miramax unit featuring Robert De Niro, also debuts that day.

"Princess and the Frog" is set to go into wide release Dec. 11, and it'll be joined by Sony's romantic comedy, "Did You Hear About the Morgans?" with Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker, and "Invictus," a Clint Eastwood film about South African leader Nelson Mandela.

After "Avatar's" Dec. 18 release, Christmas Day premieres include the only other sequel on tap, Fox's animated "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel." Also debuting is Universal's romantic comedy, "It's Complicated," featuring Meryl Streep and this year's co-hosts of the Oscar ceremony, Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin.

Other releases include "Sherlock Holmes" from Warner Bros., with Robert Downey Jr. in the title role, and two Paramount films that are expanding to wider audiences: "Up in the Air" with George Clooney and "The Lovely Bones," from "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson.

The season will have its share of Oscar bait but the campaigning is sure to be heavier this year, since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has expanded its best-picture nominee list from five to 10 films.

Dergarabedian says that list may include a few films from earlier in the year, including such popular entries as "Star Trek" and "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

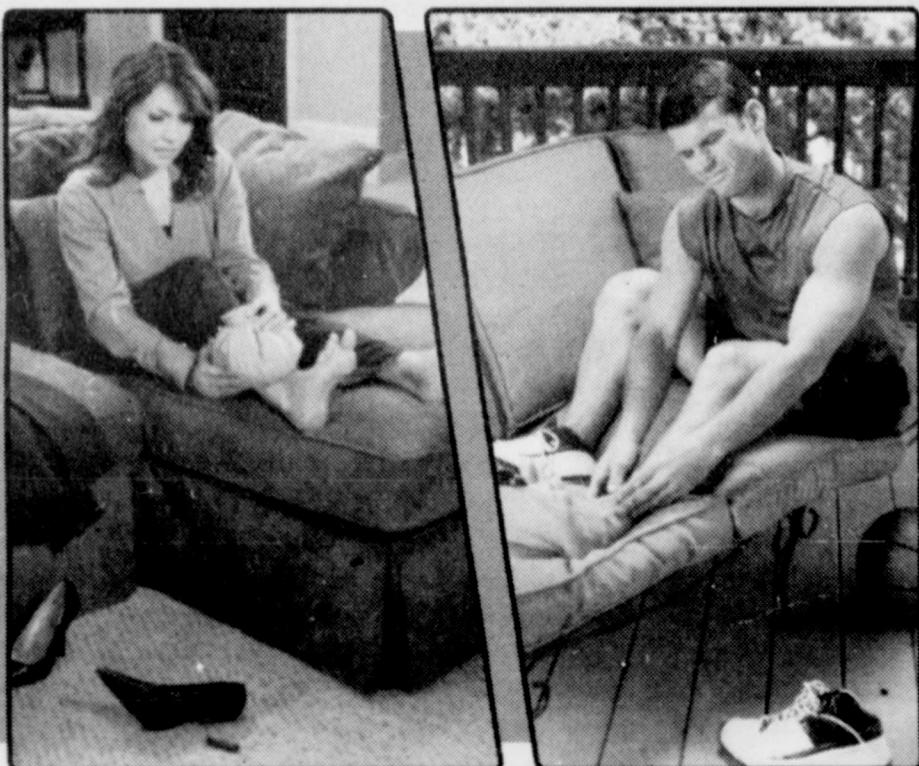
He adds that films like "Up in the Air" and Lionsgate's "Precious" are expected to capture awards attention. The surest sign a film is considered a contender is when a studio does a "platform release," getting a film in a handful of theaters at first and on to more screens as the weeks wear on.

That goes for animated films, too, which have their own Oscar category. "Princess and the Frog" may be one, but another is the fifth animated film to be released, "The Fantastic Mr. Fox," from, well, Fox, Dergarabedian says. Featuring the voices of Clooney and Cate Blanchett, "Mr. Fox" comes out in limited release Nov. 13 and expands the following weekend.

BoxOfficeMojo's Gray says that even though Hollywood is taking a gamble this year by not releasing any tried-and-true franchises, a season of original material may be needed to prime the pump.

"Relying on movies that aren't franchises or aren't sequels is pretty nice for the long term," Gray said. "If they don't come up with some new ideas, they won't have franchises or sequels for the future."

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Sam Worthington (left) and Zoe Saldana star as aliens in James Cameron's "Avatar," that comes out Dec. 18.

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

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9

A year after Obama's election, America's racial rifts are deep and persistent

George Curry
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

When Barack Obama was elected president, 70 percent of Americans were convinced that race relations would improve as a result. A year later, however, optimism about solving race problems in the United States has

dropped to where it was nearly 50 years ago, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

The Oct. 29 poll asked respondents: "Do you think that relations between blacks and whites will always be a problem for the United States, or that a solution will be worked out?" Gallup reported, "Responses to this

long-standing trend today are almost exactly where they were in December 1963, when Gallup first asked the question. Fifty-five percent of Americans in 1963 were hopeful that a solution to the race-relations problem would eventually be worked out. Now, some 46 years later, the 'hopeful' percentage is an almost identical 56 percent."

Maybe that's why Obama titled one of his books "The Audacity of Hope." Americans were never more hopeful about race relations than when Obama, the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, was elected president. A Gallup poll on Nov. 5, 2008 — one day after the election — found that 67 percent of Americans felt a solution to problems between blacks and whites would eventually be worked out.

A year later, that figure has shrunk by 11 percent.

In the 2008 poll, 70 percent of those questioned said they expected race relations to improve as a result of Obama's election; 28 percent said they expected race relations to get a lot better; and 42 percent expected things to get a little better. An additional 17 percent said they expected race relations to remain unchanged, and 10 percent expected them to worsen.

On the campaign trail, Obama audaciously raised hopes that he could help close the racial divide. In his Philadelphia speech on race, he said, "Race is an issue that I believe this nation cannot afford to ignore right now." He continued, "Contrary to the claims of some of my critics, black and white, I have never been so naive as to believe that we can get beyond our racial divisions in a single election cycle, or with a single candidacy — particularly a candidacy as imperfect as my own."

As it turns out, far from moving beyond our divisions, America remains a sharply divided country even as it grows more diverse.

Obama has for the most part studiously avoided directly addressing race during his time in office. The chief exception was a comment he made on a confrontation between Henry Louis Gates Jr., a black Harvard pro-

fessor, and James Crowley, a white Cambridge, Mass., police sergeant. At a prime-time news conference, Obama accused Crowley of "acting stupidly" in arresting the professor for disorderly conduct after the two exchanged words when Crowley went to Gates' home to investigate a possible break-in.

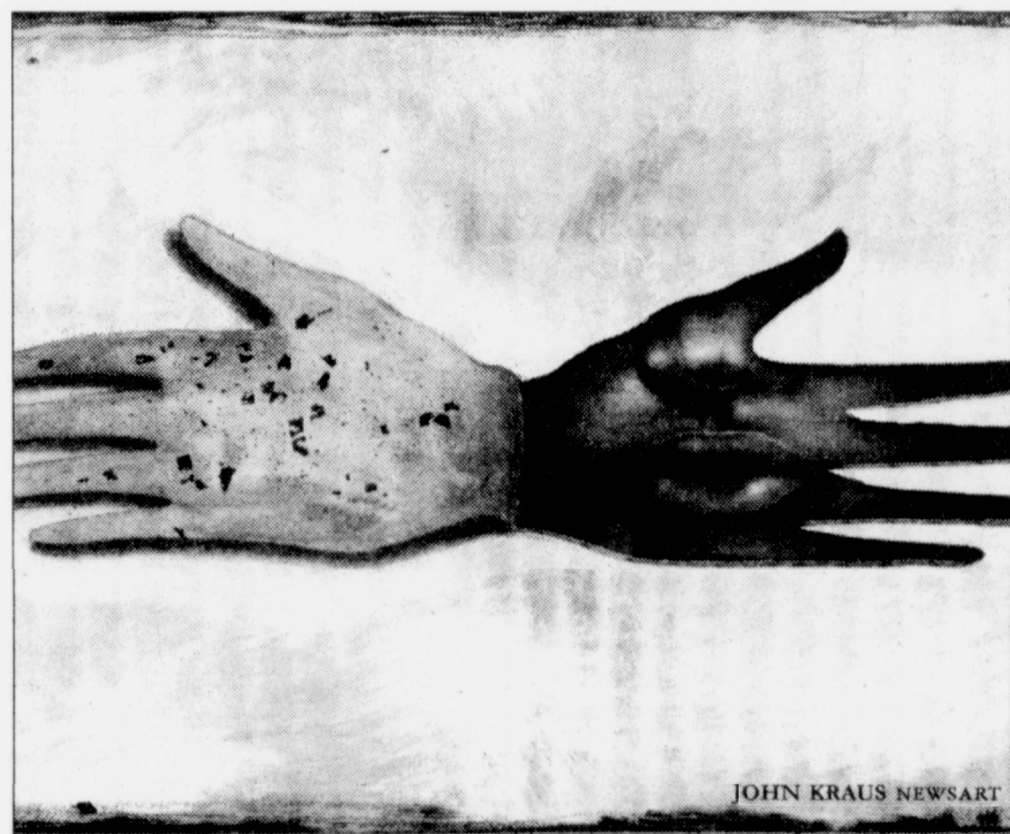
Obama later softened his language and invited Crowley and Gates to meet with him over beers at the White House. The president said, "My hope is that as a consequence of this event, this ends up being what's called a teachable moment."

But nothing was ever taught by Obama or anyone else. In fact, blacks and whites were sharply divided over the incident. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found that 30 percent of blacks faulted Sgt. Crowley, and only 4 percent blamed Gates. Among whites, it was the opposite: 32 percent said Gates was more at fault, while 7 percent said Crowley was.

Race came up again when former President Jimmy Carter told NBC News, "I think an overwhelming portion of the intensely demonstrated animosity toward President Barack Obama is based on the fact that he is a black man." Press secretary Robert Gibbs quickly distanced the White House from the comment, saying Obama "does not believe that the criticism comes based on the color of his skin."

Despite such unequivocal statements, conservative commentators such as Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck have repeatedly tried to paint the president into a racial corner. Criticizing Obama's appointment of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, Limbaugh said Obama is the "greatest living example of a reverse racist, and now he's appointed one." Beck accused the biracial president of being a "racist" who has "a deep-seated hatred for white people and the white culture."

Fortunately, the improvement of race relations does not hinge on the attitudes of those on the fringes, left or right — or on President Obama, for that matter. His election a year ago did not usher in an era of racial harmony. It looks as if that's something we'll have to accomplish ourselves.



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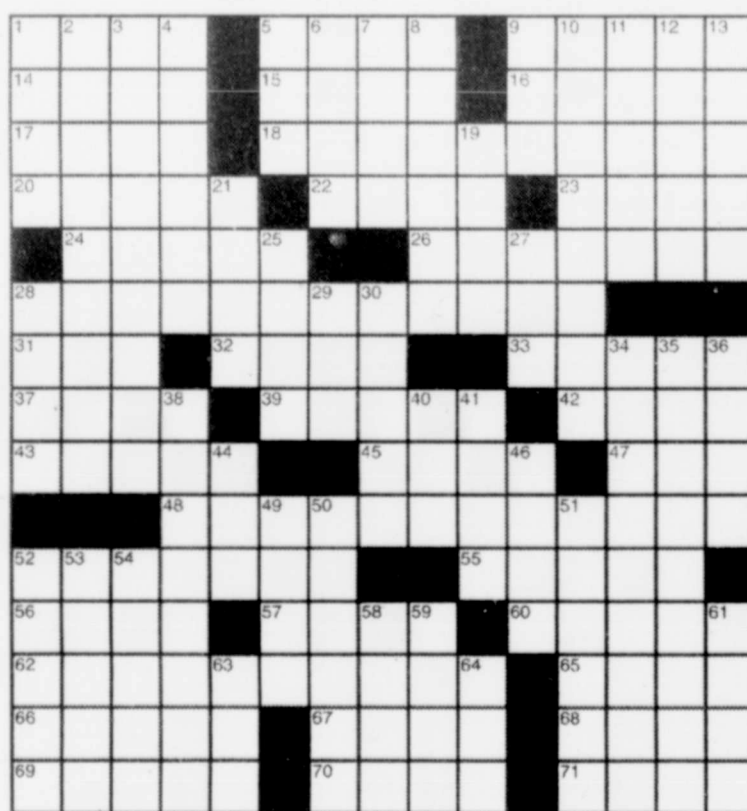
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1006

- Across**
- 1 Christine's lover in "The Phantom of the Opera"
 - 5 Onetime science magazine
 - 9 Philosopher with a "razor"
 - 14 "Lama Ding Dong," 1961 hit for the Edsels
 - 15 Paper purchase
 - 16 Best-selling author Bret Easton
 - 17 "The Lord of the Rings" shepherd
 - 18 Only common word in the English language with the consecutive letters MPG
 - 20 Wild animal track
 - 22 Command to a person holding a deck of cards
 - 23 Lily
 - 24 What colors may do in hot water
 - 26 Moves back, as a hairline
 - 28 ... ADQ ...
 - 31 Carney of "The Honeymooners"
 - 32 Catch some Z's
 - 33 "This tastes horrible!"
 - 37 Really ticked
 - 39 Circus stick
 - 42 "Comin' the Rye"
 - 43 Actress Winona
 - 45 Captain for 40 days and nights
 - 47 "I don't want to hear about it!"
 - 48 ... KSG ...
 - 52 "I don't want to hear about it!"
 - 55 Perform really badly
 - 56 Golfer Isao
 - 57 Escape clauses, e.g.
 - 60 Pair of lenses
 - 62 ... ZKR ...
 - 65 Cheese sold in red paraffin
 - 66 Cowboy star Lash, who taught Harrison Ford how to use a bullwhip
 - 67 Boat in "Jaws"
 - 68 Trick
 - 69 Rub out
 - 70 Butterfly catchers' needs
 - 71 German admiral Maximilian von
- Down**
- 1 Goddess of discord
 - 2 ... SPB ...
 - 3 Burned ceremonially
 - 4 Walloped but good
 - 5 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
 - 6 Lake created by Hoover Dam
 - 7 ID
 - 8 Bestow
 - 9 Not 'neath
 - 10 Narrowly spaced, as the eyes
 - 11 Aware, with "in"
 - 12 All-Star Danny who played for the 1980s Celtics
 - 13 PC platform released in 1982
 - 19 Mirth
 - 21 Necessary: Abbr.
 - 25 Pairs
 - 27 What Evita asked Argentina not to do for her
 - 28 Fur
 - 29 First anti-AIDS drug
 - 30 Freshen, as a stamp pad

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

T	R	A	I	T	C	E	D	E	C	A	S	A
A	A	R	G	H	A	L	O	E	A	L	I	S
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M	I	R	E	B	O	A	S	N	A	F	T	A
A	G	E	S	I	S	N	T	A	N	T	S	Y



Puzzle by Matt Ginsberg

- 34 Fettered
- 35 ... NKC ...
- 36 Romance/suspense novelist Tami
- 38 Rubble, e.g.
- 40 The "L" in L.A.
- 41 Marks with graffiti
- 44 Baseball summary inits.
- 46 The middle part of 44-Down
- 49 Crazyedly
- 50 One of about 100 billion in the human brain
- 51 Snakes
- 52 Expensive fur
- 53 Arctic or antarctic
- 54 "Seven Samurai" director Kurosawa
- 58 Tucker out
- 59 Zen Buddhism, e.g.
- 61 Right-hand man for a man with no right hand
- 63 Capital of Zambia?
- 64 Tankful

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EASY

27

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Quarterback

continued from page 12

check every Sunday.

So when Manning and Philip Rivers met again five years later, I found myself hoping Eli got his comeuppance.

It looked bleak for San Diego, as LaDainian Tomlinson had just 22 yards rushing to lead the team. But Rivers led a dramatic late drive to give the Chargers a one-point win.

Score one for the good guys. But something tells me Manning wouldn't give it all up to go back and take his selfishness back. He's probably laughing his way to the bank in the back of a limousine while polishing his championship ring right now.

Wild no more

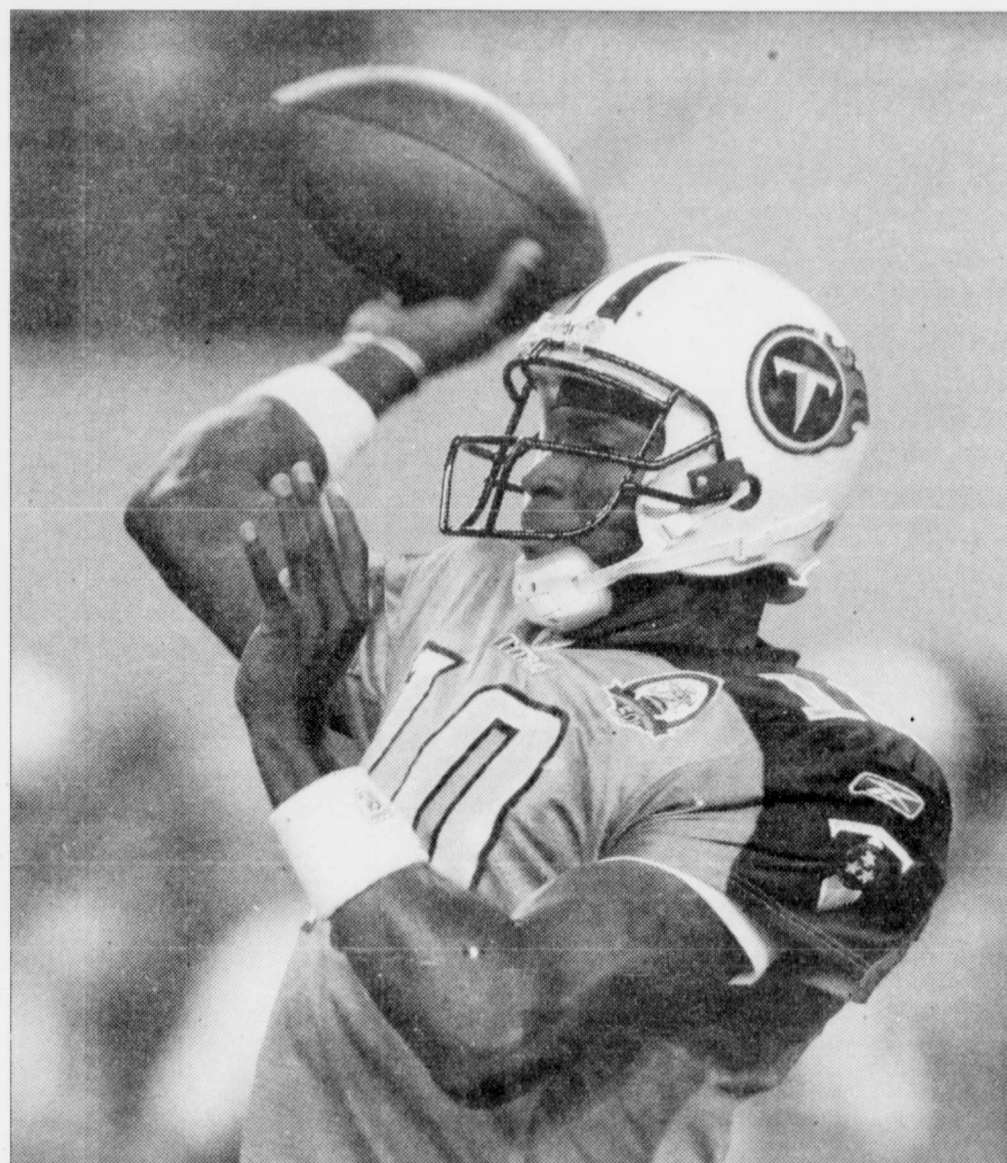
If there is a team in the NFL that doesn't need any redeeming, it's the Patriots. They win an average of what seems like 14 games a season.

But they let some games get away last year; particularly a game against Miami where the newly-coined Wildcat offense went berserk for 38 points and Bill Belichick's head exploded like in the movie "Scanners."

And although New England would win the rematch, the Wildcat again would pose problems.

I'm sure Belichick spent the majority of the offseason figuring out how to stop the Wildcat. He didn't need to work at all on his offense with Tom Brady coming back and with two of the best receivers in the league, he was left to ponder the crazy offense.

While the Dolphins threw in a wrinkle this year with rookie quarterback Pat White often times leading



MCCLEACHY-TRIBUNE

Vince Young went 12 of 19 for 172 yards with no turnovers against the 49ers last week. His total passing yardage marks his best this season.

it — the Patriots didn't really let it get off the ground this time.

With the exception of a 16-play, 11-minute drive in the third quarter, the Wildcat sputtered most times in a 10-point loss.

But you know who I feel sorry for in this equation? Chad Henne. He runs on and off the field five or six times per drive. He's probably out of stamina by the time the first third down of a drive rolls around. And

then half the time he gets on the field, he sprints out to a wide receiver position where he is promptly ignored by the defensive back who is already cheating away from Henne towards the line of scrimmage.

Just once I want to see them throw a wide receiver screen to Henne, or have him run a route.

Ronnie Brown can actually throw the ball, and Pat White was a quarterback, so why not give it a shot?

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THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

#9 Daniel Cumming
#44 Ryan Shotwell
#41 Brittany Lange

**BIG WEST
CONFERENCE
SEMIFINALS**

MEN'S SOCCER

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11TH
VS #20 UC IRVINE,
7:00PM

ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY, NOV. 14TH
VS. SOUTH DAKOTA,
6:00PM

SENIOR DAY

ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM

W. BASKETBALL

SUNDAY NOV. 15TH
VS. NEW MEXICO STATE
2:00PM

HOME OPENER

MOTT GYM

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

Mustangs host UC Irvine in semifinal match

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Last year, the third-seeded Cal Poly men's soccer team received an at-large berth into the NCAA tournament despite falling to UC Santa Barbara in the semifinals of the Big West Conference tournament.

The bid sent the Mustangs to face off against UCLA in the first round, where they were able to pull off a 1-0 victory. In the next round, Cal Poly failed to extend their season and fell to UC Irvine, 3-0.

This Wednesday night, the Mustangs get a shot at redemption as No. 2 Cal Poly (8-9-2, 6-3-1) hosts No. 3 UC Irvine (13-6, 6-4) in a Big West Conference Tournament game at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

With the Anteaters falling to Cal State Northridge on the last day of the season, the Mustangs were able to nab the second seed in the tournament. The second seed means home-field advantage in the tournament's first game and the Mustangs are 6-1-1 at home in 2009, having not lost since opening day.

"I think it's the biggest thing for us," sophomore defender Patrick Sigler said. "We know the field very well and we have only lost once this year so we're very comfortable playing there."

After a rough 0-4 start Cal Poly has proved they can rebound from failure.

"We didn't put our tail between our legs and quit on the season, we



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Forward David Zamora is tied for seventh in points (15) and fifth in goals (6) in the Big West Conference.

kept fighting," head coach Paul Holocher said. "This is a new season ... put everything you can into one game Wednesday night."

The Mustangs will have to showcase that effort against a very strong offensive team in UC Irvine.

The Anteaters hold the statisti-

cal leaders in points, goals, assists and game-winning goals in the Big West. Forward Amani Walker leads the Big West in goals (9) and midfielder Irving Garcia leads the nation in points (22) and assists (8).

"(UC Irvine is a) good attacking team, they have two very good for-

wards; they have probably the most special midfielder in the west region in Irving Garcia, so we're going to have to be very sharp defensively," Holocher said.

While the Cal Poly defense will have to play at its top level, the Mustang offense holds its share of of-

fensive playmakers that will need to produce at least two goals to move on to the conference championship, Holocher said.

Junior forward David Zamora is tied for 5th in the Big West with six goals and seventh in points per game while midfielder Chris Gaschen is seventh in the Big West in assists.

In their previous meeting this season, the No. 22 Anteaters were able to defeat the Mustangs 2-1.

Cal Poly squandered a first half 1-0 lead, when UC Irvine landed two strikes from senior forward Carlos Aguilar and senior midfielder Kevin Santora that fell 13 minutes apart in the second half.

Junior goalkeeper Patrick McLain recorded six saves in the contest, five of which came in the first half.

Sophomore midfielder Jacob Hustedt found Sigler in the opponent's box with a free kick for the lone Mustang goal.

But with that loss, and the rest of the regular season behind them, the Mustangs look onto this week's postseason contest.

"We are playing our best soccer right now and that's a good thing because it is now a one-game season ... we have the confidence now," Sigler said.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

"Our only chance to make the NCAA playoffs is to win the Big West Tournament," Holocher said.

Tuesday Morning
Quarterback
COMMENTARY



Week of redemption

Scott Silvey

ON THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

A number of players and teams stepped up this week to redeem themselves, showing that they aren't holding on to the past.

After all, experts say that to survive in the NFL players must have a short memory.

"Hey Vince Young, forget about how the Titans pulled you to start a quarterback who is old enough to remember going to the premiere of *Gone with the Wind*," they might say. Young moved his career record to

19-11 in a win over San Francisco. The 49ers were starting a quarterback of their own who was seeking some redemption.

Alex Smith didn't quite get it done in the clutch as the Titans held on after he threw a pick six while trying to drive down for the tying score. Still, I think Smith earned the job for at least another week. That late-game interception wasn't really his fault as it came off a strange deflection straight up into the air.

But the story of the game was Young's performance.

Kerry Collins was supposed to be the game manager — yet Young went 12 of 19 for 172 yards with no turnovers. He added a rushing touchdown, which is one of the things people thought he might do well when drafted.

Still, Young has a long way to go before his predictions of winning a Super Bowl and going to the hall of fame come true.

Battle of the Bay

The Buccaneers are a team that came into Sunday's game against Green Bay looking for some redemption. Hell, I'm sure they were just looking to find any redeeming qualities the team might possess.

I defy you to name more than five players on Tampa Bay (aside from quarterbacks, since they always seem to have 10-15 on the roster). You can't do it, can you? I don't even think new head coach Raheem Morris can name more than a couple of his players. I'm sure he just calls them by number.

Tampa Bay was even wearing those hideous orange cream uniforms.

When I heard earlier last week that they were going to wear them I thought they were just channeling the ghost of the infamous Yuccaneer past. If you're going to be bad, look hideous doing it as well I guess.

Making his first NFL start, Josh Freeman threw three touchdown passes and the previously winless Buccaneers put a fourth quarter beatdown on Green Bay.

While Freeman completed less than half his passes, he was playing against a Green Bay defense that forced Jay Cutler into four interceptions on opening day. Freeman made the smart plays, avoiding the pressure and throwing the ball away.

Five years in the making

I've never been accused of being a Chargers fan, but I was pretty peeved when Eli Manning and his father threw a hissy fit to avoid having to go to San Diego on draft day five years ago.

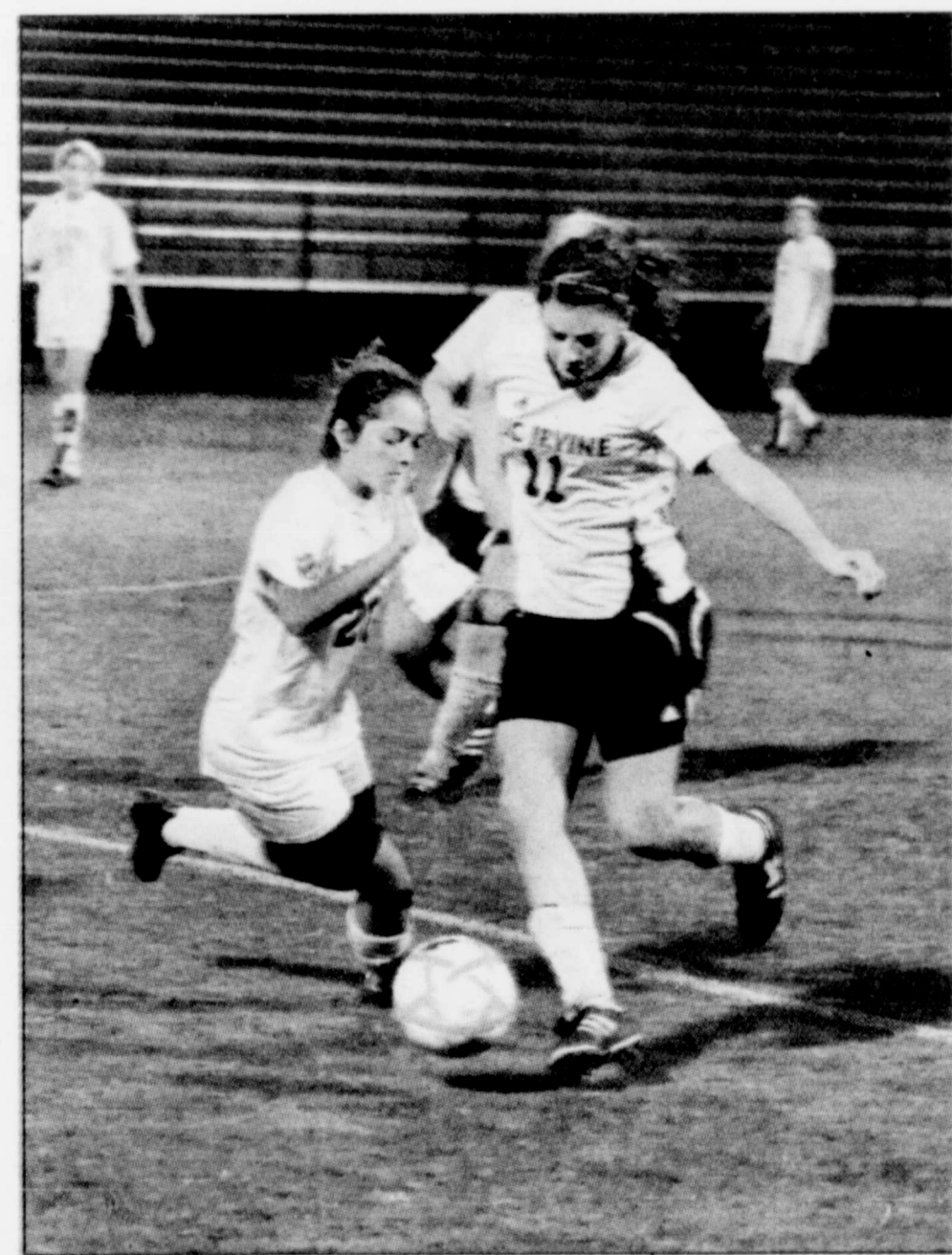
It was John Elway-esque. Elway refused to play for the then-Baltimore Colts, saying he would go play baseball instead. He forced the Colts to trade him to Denver, and the rest is history.

The selfishness of many professional athletes boggles me, including Manning. To me, that's the defining moment in his career thus far, not the Super Bowl win. (The defining moment of that Super Bowl will always be David Tyree's insane catch.)

Obviously no one wants to play for a losing team. But you man up and accept it, especially when you're playing for a half million dollar

see Quarterback, page 11

Women's soccer doesn't receive NCAA bid



RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly women's soccer head coach Alex Crozier said his team was "hopeful" as it was awaiting the NCAA's decision. But hope wasn't enough. With 32 available at-large bids in the NCAA Tournament, Cal Poly was not one of the teams selected. The Mustangs finish their season (14-5-1).